



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Immediate Release

"How many ducks can I shoot this fall?" inquires a hunter. "Yes I've read the regulations but I'm still puzzled by some of the legal terms. I want to clear up a few points."

The duty of seeing to it that these regulations are enforced falls on the experienced shoulders of W. E. Crouch, Chief of the Game Management Division of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Let's quiz him on the subject.

Question: Does the daily bag limit on ducks remain at 10?

Answer: Yes, except that you may take an additional bag only of 5 mallards, widgeons or pintails, or any combination of these three ducks.

Question: But suppose my first 10 ducks were all mallards -- Can I shoot 5 more mallards for a total of 15?

Answer: Yes. And the answer would be the same if you had asked about pintails or widgeons.

Question: Can I kill 5 more black ducks if I have a bag limit of 10?

Answer: No. The black duck is not a mallard although often erroneously called a black mallard.

Question: Why the extra bag on these particular ducks?

Answer: Because they are now the most abundant species. They are the species most often concerned with crop damages. Frankly, we hope to control their depredations as much as possible by allowing hunters a larger bag. Bear in mind this is only a temporary relaxation. The extra bag might be cut off at any time. It certainly will be when they cease to be a problem in crop damage.

Question: What about canvasbacks, redheads and buffleheads?

Answer: This year you may take a full daily bag of 10 canvasbacks, 10 redheads, or 10 buffleheads. But not more than 10 in the aggregate of the three kinds.

Question: What's the law on wood ducks?

Answer: You are permitted to take daily 1 wood duck and to have not more than 1 wood duck in your possession, except in Massachusetts and North Dakota where no open season is provided.

Question: Does this 1 wood duck count in my daily bag limit?

Answer: Yes, it must be included.

Question: What is the possession limit on ducks?

Answer: 20, and in addition you may possess 10 mallards, widgeons or pintails, singly or in combination.

Question: Why has the daily bag limit on American and red-breasted mergansers been boosted to 25?

Answer: They have become so numerous that trout waters are being depleted by them. In some places they are now a real menace to fish propagation. Incidentally, there is no possession limit on them.

Question: The daily limit on coots is also 25, isn't it?

Answer: Correct. Coots compete with the ducks for food. Hunters ought to take more coots; learn to cook them. We have a number of interesting recipes which will be mailed free on request. Just address U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Merchandise Mart, Chicago 54, Illinois.

Question: What about goose limits?

Answer: There is no change from last year on Canada geese and brant. The daily limit is 2, possession limit 4. These may be all Canada geese, all brant, or any combination of the two.

Question: May I legally shoot a Ross's goose, swan or crane?

Answer: No open season at any time.

Question: How about snows, blues and white-fronted geese?

Answer: This calls for two answers: (1) In the Pacific Coast States the new daily bag limit in effect this coming season allows you to take 4 snow geese, 4 white-fronted geese, but not more than 4 in the aggregate of both kinds, plus 2 of Canada and brant singly or in the aggregate. The possession limit is two daily bag limits. (2) In the rest of the country, with certain exceptions, the new daily bag may include 4 snow geese, 4 blue geese, but not more than 4 in the aggregate of both kinds plus 2 of Canada and white-fronted geese and brant singly or in the aggregate. Possession limit, two daily bag limits.

Question: What are the "certain exceptions"?

Answer: No open season is provided for snow geese in States bordering the Atlantic Coast, in Idaho, and in Beaverhead, Gallatin and Madison counties in Montana.

Question: What time in each day of the open season is waterfowl shooting allowed?

Answer: From half an hour before sunrise to sunset. Note one exception: In Alexander County, Illinois, geese may be hunted only from half an hour before sunrise to noon.

Question: What else do I need to know about the regulations before I go duck hunting this fall?

Answer: Don't forget to have with you, when required, a State Hunting License and a Federal Duck Stamp. These are the first two things the enforcement officer will want to see.

Question: When is a Federal Duck Stamp required?

Answer: Every waterfowl hunter over 16 years of age must have on his or her person while hunting a properly signed migratory bird hunting stamp of current issue.

Question: When is a state hunting license required?

Answer: Most hunters in each state must have hunting licenses, however, this requirement is different in various states. You should consult your State Game Department in regard to state licenses.

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